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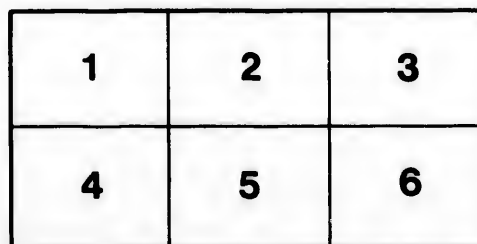
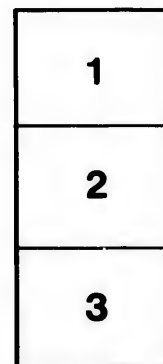
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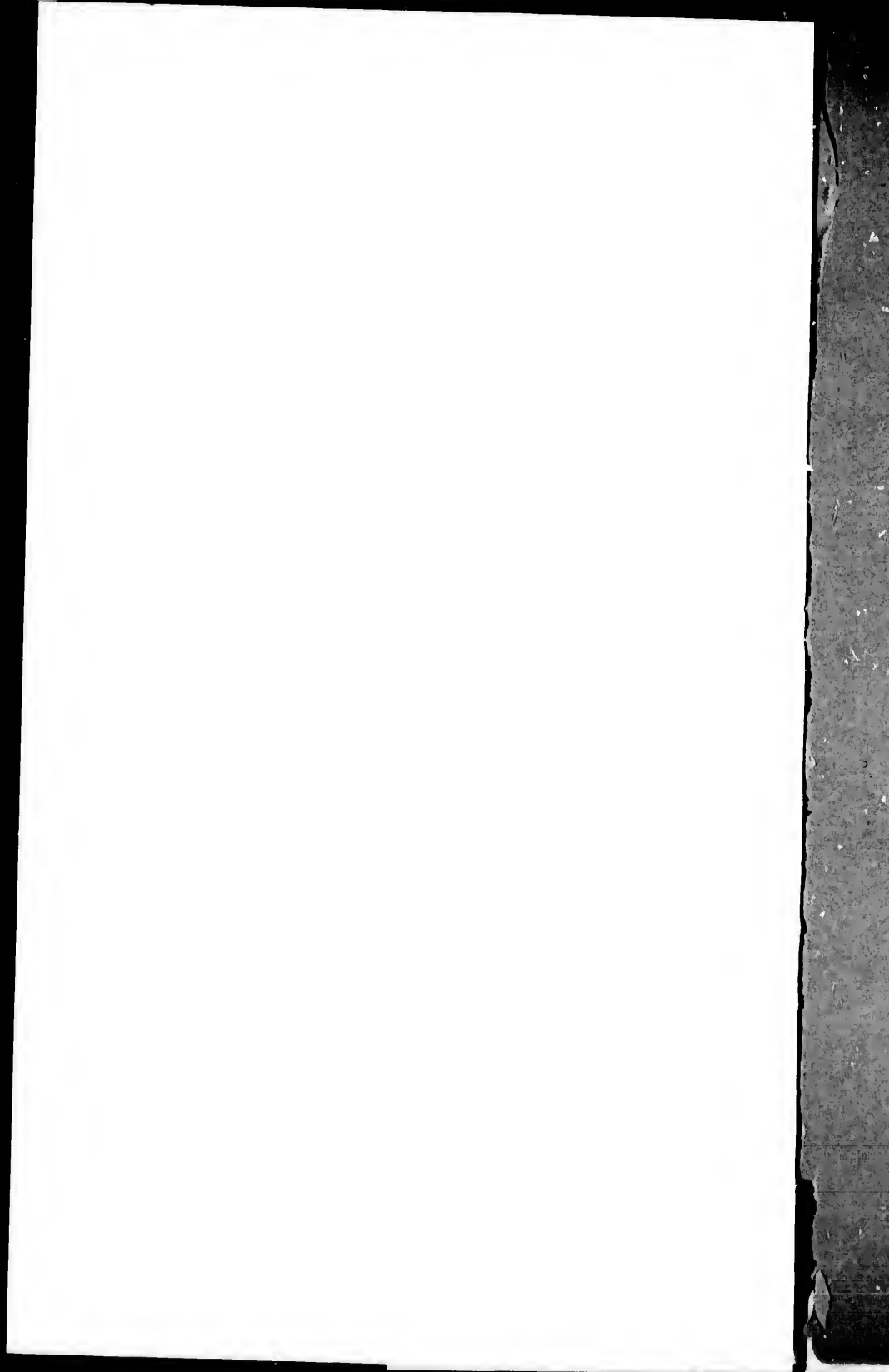
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**Medals awarded**  
**TO THE**  
**Canadian Indians**

**BY**

**R. W. McLACHLAN**  
**Curator of the Chateau de Ramezay Museum**

**MONTREAL**

**1899**



**Medals awarded**

**TO THE**

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**•**

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## MEDALS AWARDED TO CANADIAN INDIANS



**W**HILE it may be impossible now to give the original motives or circumstances which led to the adoption of medals as a valuable accessory to intercourse with the North American Indians, it may be inferred that they grew out of similar uses among the peoples of older lands. As the gift of medals came to be more and more appreciated by the Indians, their value, as a form of reward or as a means of conciliation, was recognized by governments, and that too for several distinct purposes.

1st. As a badge by which friendly Indians could be recognized. In some instances, no Indians were allowed within the settlements unless they wore their medals.



2nd. To attach the Indians to the interests of the colony, as is shown by the following extract from a *Memoire du Roy aux Sieurs Marquis de Vaudreuil et Raudot* : "Sa Majesté a accordé trente médailles d'argent, et 10 de vermeil, pour faire des présents aux Sauvages. Elle les envoie au dit Sieur de Vaudreuil et Elle désire qu'elles soient distribuées aux chefs des Sauvages qui lui sont les plus affectionnés et dont on peut tirer le plus de secours." (1)

3rd. As a reward for services rendered. This is exemplified in a letter written by Vaudreuil in 1722: "J'ai reçu la lettre que le conseil m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 7 juin dernier et les douze médailles avec le portrait du Roy, sçavoir quatre grandes et huit petites qui y estoient jointes. Je continuerai d'avoir attention de ne point prodiguer cette grâce parmi les sauvages et de ne les donner qu'à ceux qui les auront méritées par leur attachement et leurs services pour la nation." (2)

4th. To secure the services or the neutrality of the Indians in a war about to be declared or actually in progress. This phase will be clearly shown in describing the medals of the war with the United States, 1776-80.

5th. As a reward for valour or services in war. This will be detailed in describing the medals of the war of 1812-14.

6th. As certificates of treaties agreed to, a use exemplified by the North-West Treaty Medals.

(1) Collection des documents relatifs à la Nouvelle-France. Vol. II, page 514.

(2) Archives, Canada, Correspondance Générale, Vol. 44, folio 364.

VIDEOS AVAILABLE  
AT THE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The date when medals were introduced among the aborigines of this continent is lost in the dim distance of the early settlements, for the first, so employed, bore no date or special design; nor did those who participated in this act consider it an event worthy to be recorded. Medals struck to commemorate some episode in the life of the king or event in the history of the nation were used. The earliest mention of medals in connection with Canadian Indians is found in the *Relation de ce qui s'est passé au Canada du 27 novembre 1670 jusqu'au départ du vaisseau en novembre 1671*, which mentions: "Un sauvage du Sault, (Caughnawaga), nommé Louis Atouata, filleul du Roy, qui conserve chèrement la médaille dont Sa Majesté lui a fait présent." (1) This shews that the practice was well established at the time. The earliest known special medal, issued in America, appears to have been struck about the year 1670. This was authorized by the colony of Virginia to be given to the friendly Indians permitting them to come within the settlements. It bears on the obverse the head of Charles II and on the reverse the Royal Arms with a representation of a tobacco plant. (2)

Canadian medals for the Indians, with a single exception, bore the head of the reigning sovereign on the obverse; and generally the Royal Arms or some other such attribute of royalty on the reverse. Usually neither the devise nor the inscription, had any

(1) Archives, Canada, Correspondance Générale, Vol. IV.

(2) "American Cotemporary Medals," New-York, 1894, page 26.

reference to the object for which the medals were struck.

Size was of great importance to the red man who was no admirer of miniature medals. Some were struck exceeding three inches in diameter. These were for the great chiefs, for there were smaller medals for lesser lights. Often there were three sizes of the same design and issue, measuring seventy-five, sixty and thirty-eight millimetres respectively. In one instance there were five sizes, ranging from seventy-five to thirty-one millimetres. These represented so many different grades of chiefs or so many degrees in value of services.

The metal, in which they were struck, was usually silver; although as is seen by an authority already cited. <sup>(1)</sup> Vermeil (silver gilt) was occasionally used; and the minister, in a memorandum of necessary expenses (for Canada), states that: "Il faut leur envoyer quelques médailles d'or." <sup>(2)</sup> George IV gave a medal in gold, although it could not have been a specially struck one. <sup>(3)</sup>

While we may be inclined to believe that more

(1) See page 2.

(2) Collection des documents relatifs à la Nouvelle-France. Vol. III, page 465.

(3) In the portrait gallery of the Château de Ramezay is an engraving of an Indian's portrait, on which is the following long inscription: "Nicholas Vincent Tsawanhonhi, principal Chief of the Huron Indians established at La Jeune Lorette, near Quebec, habited in the costume of his country as when presented to His Majesty George IV on the 7th of April 1825, with three other chiefs of his nation, by Generals Brock and Carpenter; the chief bears in his hand the wampum collar on which is marked the tomahawk given by His Majesty George III. The gold medal on his neck was the gift of His Majesty on this presentation."

minor than great medals were distributed, as there could not help but be more lesser than "Great Chiefs"; this fact is not borne out by the number of existing medals; the larger medals are by far the more abundant. (1) This may, in a measure, be accounted for by the fact that the minor chiefs more readily parted with their medals; and that, too, at a time when there were few collectors in the country to secure and hand them down to posterity, while the great chiefs' medals passed from father to son as an insignia of office. They have thus been preserved to the present time when the demand has so raised the price of these medals as to tempt even the chiefs to part with their treasured heir-looms. Old silversmiths relate that, as late as sixty years ago, the Indians used to bring in their medals to have them made over into gorgets and armlets; which ornaments were greatly esteemed among the dusky denizens of the forests.

Taking up these medals chronologically, the first in order is

#### THE MEDALS OF THE FRENCH REGIME

The earliest of this series, which can, with any certainty, be attributed to Canada, is a medal or rather five different sized medals, all bearing the same design, dated 1693. On the obverse is displayed the head of Louis XIV, with flowing hair, and on the reverse those of his son the dauphin and the three

(1) For instance, I have in my own collection six of the largest, three of the medium but only one of the smallest. Other collectors have a like or even less proportion.

sons of the latter. No device, at that time, appeared more appropriate, for the reverence of the Indians, than the portrait of the King and his successors. The medal, in the catalogue of the Musée Monétaire, is claimed as having been issued to commemorate the birth of the Duc de Berri, the Dauphin's youngest son. (1) This is evidently an error for that event occurred seven years earlier than the date given on the medal. There is a similar medal, dated 1686, giving the day and month as well as the year of the infant Duke's birth, which appears to have been struck for that occasion. It was the similarity in the design which led to the error in the catalogue. Compiled, as it was, at a much later date, by men who do not appear to have had access to the proper archives, many of the subjects are wrongly stated. Specimens of the birth medal were no doubt first awarded to some of the Indians, and the design, proving acceptable, was adopted and especially struck in a regular series of sizes, for general distribution. The following extract from a letter, by Madame Duplessis Ste. Hélène, of the Hôtel-Dieu, Quebec, dated the 17th October, 1723, fully bears out this contention.

"Le Roy Louis 14 avoit envoyé des médailles d'argent assez grandes où son portrait étoit d'un côté et de l'autre étoit celui du Dauphin, son fils, et des 3 princes, ses enfans, pour donner à ceux qui se distingueroient dans la guerre, on y a ajouté depuis un ruban couleur de feu large de 4 doigts, cela

(1) Catalogue des Poignons, Coins et Médailles du Musée Monétaire ; Paris, 1833; page 193.

est fort estimé chés eux ... Quand il y meurt quelque chef, on le fait enterrer honorablement, une partie des troupes est sous les armes, on fait sur sa fosse plusieurs décharges de mousquets, on met sur sa bière une épée croisée de son fourreau et la médaille en question attachée dessus." (1) There are five sizes of this medal which indicates a general distribution to all grades of Indians from the simple warrior to the "Great Chief." As thus appears, a large number of these medals have been issued, it would naturally be inferred that specimens could still be obtained, but so far only one original is known — the largest size — now preserved in the museum of the Université Laval, at Quebec. No originals of the smaller sizes have come down to the present time, and but for the fact that the dies have been preserved at the Musée Monétaire, all knowledge of them would have been lost. Fortunately restrikes can easily be had, from which it is possible to describe them accurately. The disappearance of the French Indian medals can be accounted for by the fact that when an Indian changed his allegiance, he changed his medal also. Thus de Vaudreuil in a report of a conference with delegates from the Iroquois, on the 23rd December 1756, states that: "Koué, chef Ounécote, en remettant au gouverneur deux médailles anglaises, fait la déclaration suivante: Mon père, nous ne pouvons garder ces deux médailles que nous avons eu cy devant la légèreté de recevoir de notre frère l'Anglois pour marque

(1) "Collection de lettres de Madame Duplessis de Sainte-Hélène, religieuse de l'Hotel-Dieu de Québec," in "La Revue Canadienne" 1875, page 109.



de distinction. Nous reconnaissons que ces médailles ont été la véritable source de notre égarement et qu'elles nous ont employés dans des mauvaises affaires. Nous nous en dépouillons, nous les rejetons pour ne plus pencher à l'Anglois. (1) Such were the scenes that took place after the cession when the Indians abjured allegiance to the French King and gave up their medals.

Towards the close of the long reign of Louis XIV the reverse of the medal was changed, and in place of the bust of the Dauphin, (who died in 1712) and his sons, appeared the personification of Honour and Courage. This medal is thus referred to by M. Zay: "Aux yeux des Indiens, le sujet de cette médaille symbolisait l'amitié des Français et des Indiens; ceux-ci représentés par le personnage simplement drapé, ceux-là personnifiés par le guerrier romain." (1) No original of this medal is known but restrikes have been obtained at the Musée Monétaire.

The same device for the reverse was continued by Louis XV. The obverse of course bore the bust of the new king. This medal is described by Père Roubaud, Jesuit missionary among the Abenakis, in a letter written from Saint François, 21st October, 1757; in which, while describing a large assemblage of warriors, he states that: "Les chefs et capitaines ne sont

(1) Archives quoted by E. Zay, in an article on "Médailles d'honneur pour les Indiens" in "l'Annuaire de la Société Française de Numismatique" 1889, page 301. I may here state that I am indebted to M. Zay's article for a good deal of the references here given.

(2) "Annuaire de la Société Française de Numismatique." 1899. page 296.

distingués ceux-ci par la hausse-col et ceux-là que par un médaillon qui représente d'un côté le portrait du roi et au revers Mars et Bellone qui se donnent la main avec cette devise: *virtus et honor*.<sup>(1)</sup> Although in a quotation already cited de Vaudreuil acknowledges the receipt of medals in two sizes, only one is known, and that the medium one. There are two specimens still extant one is in the collection of the Library of Parliament, at Ottawa, and the other in the possession of the Hon. L. E. Baker, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. The reverse of this medal is mentioned in the catalogue of the Musée Monétaire<sup>(2)</sup> combined with the reverse of another medal and described as "Prix universel des Arts." This is evidently a mistake as no prize medal of the kind would have been issued without the bust of the king for obverse.

1 *Obv.* LUDOVICUS MAGNUS REX CHRISTIANISSIMUS. Undraped bust of Louis XIV to the right, laureated; under the bust H. ROUSSEL. F.

*Rev.* FELICITAS DOMUS AUGUSTAE. Four busts; above is the bust of the Dauphin to left with SEREN. DELPH. below it; at the left youthful bust to the right, inscription LUD. D. BURG.; at the right youthful bust to the left inscription PHIL. D. AND. below very young bust to the left, inscription CAR. D. BITUR. | M. DC. XCIII. | H. ROUSSEL. F.; size 75 millimetres.

(1) *Lettres édifiantes et curieuses, écrites des missions étrangères*, Toulouse, 1810, tome III, page 192.

(2) *Catalogue du Musée Monétaire*, Paris, 1833, page 274.

- 2 *Obv.* LVDOVICVS • MAGNVS • REX • CHRISTIANISS  
laureated and armoured bust of Louis XIV to  
the right under the bust M. MOLART. F.

*Rev.* Similar to last except that the engravers  
name is wanting ; size 60 m.

- 3 *Obv.* Similar to No. 1, except that the head is  
not laureated ; the name of the engraver is J. MAV-  
GER. F.

*Rev.* As No. 2 ; size 41 m.

- 4 *Obv.* Similar to No. 3 except that the engraver's  
name is I. DOLLIN. F.

*Rev.* As No. 2 but the date is 1693 ; size 36 m.

- 5 *Obv.* LUDOVICUS. MAGNUS. REX. Undraped bust  
of Louis XIV to right under the bust T B in mon-  
ogram.

*Rev.* Similar to No. 4. Size 31 m.

- 6 *Obv.* LVDOVICVS. XIII. D. G. FR. ET. NAV. REX Drap-  
ed bust of Louis XIV to the right with long hair  
falling over the shoulders.

*Rev.* HONOS ET VIRTUS On the left is a laure-  
ated and draped figure clasping the hand of a  
Roman soldier on the right ; each holds a spear  
in his left hand ; at their feet is a horn of plenty ;  
on the ground is the letter W ; size 57 m.

- 7 *Obv.* LUDOVICUS XV REX CHRISTIANISSIMUS Lau-  
reated and draped bust of Louis XV to the right.

*Rev.* Similar to last but there is no engraver's  
initial ; size 59 m.

## THE CONQUEST MEDAL

Is in many ways the most interesting of the series. In the first place it departs altogether from the conventional designs, that had hitherto prevailed, and that afterwards continued to be employed. It bears a view of Montreal where was enacted the final scene in the struggle which brought Canada under British rule. Sir William Johnson who had won the relentless Iroquois to the British side and kept them there during a "half century of conflict," raised a large band of these Indians for service in the war for the conquest of Canada and joined the army that invested Montreal. Although they did little if any fighting it was decided to give a medal to each of the war chiefs who took part in the expedition. The distribution of these medals is described, in a private diary kept, by Sir William Johnson during a journey to and from Detroit. Under date of 21st July, 1761, he states that: "We got every thing on board the vessel, then met the Onondaga Chiefs, when assembled I bid them welcome, condoled their losses agreeable to custom, acquainted them with the reasons for my not calling them to a general council since my return from Canada . . . Then delivered the medals sent me by the general for those who went with us to Canada last year, being twenty-three in number." (1) I am able to give an illustration of one of these medals awarded nearly one hundred and forty years ago to the warrior chief of the Onondagas, whose name it bears. The medal was evidently

(1) *Life of Sir William Johnson, Albany, 1841, Vol. II, page 435.*

made in America, which by the way, accounts for the departure from the prevailing conventional design. Stone (1) states that it was the intention to display the arms of Sir William Johnson on the medal, but somehow what purported to be a view of Montreal but altogether unlike the city at that date, (2) was adopted instead. It was pure imagination such as the New York artist, who designed the medal, from a verbal description, conceived the city to have been. The reverse was left plain so that the name of the chief and that of the nation to which he belonged could be engraved thereon. The size was much smaller than that ordinarily given to the great chiefs.

- 8 *Obv.* MONTREAL A view of fortified town, showing five church spires, (3) with water in front in which there is an island; to the right on a fort is a flag displaying the cross of St. George; *Ex.* DCF in a small oval. Edge corded.

*Rev.* Plain (for the inscription); size 45 m.

This medals appears to be cast. The specimen in my collection is inscribed: "TKAHONWAGHSE ONONDAGOS" The "DCF" is no doubt the silversmith's stamp.

(1) Life of Sir William Johnson, in a foot note.

(2) In a book entitled "Old times in the Colonies," New York, 1881, at page 438, a view of Montreal in 1760, "from an old print," unlike that on the medal is given which is as untrue in detail as only two churches are shown the parish and the Jesuits'.

(3) These five spires, starting from the east, represent the Bonsecours, Jesuits', Parish, Recollets', and the Grey Nuns' churches.

## A MARRIAGE MEDAL

Was especially struck, in 1761, for distribution among the Canadian Indians on the occasion of the marriage of George III. This event, coming so soon after the conquest, was considered a fitting occasion for binding the hoards of savages, in the newly acquired territories, to the interest of the king by the presentation of a commemorative medal. Its size, the smallest of the three, the one usually presented to ordinary warriors, shows, that it was struck for general distribution and not as a reward or treaty medal. Still it is very scarce, not more than three or four being known.

- 9 *Obv.* No inscription; busts of George III on the left and Queen Charlotte on the right, facing, a curtain or canopy, tied with cord and tassels over their heads.

*Rev.* The royal arms crowned, first and fourth Great Britain, second France, third Ireland; size 38 m.

## THE CONSPIRACY OF PONTIAC MEDALS

Were awarded in connection with a confederacy of the Western Indians against British rule. In 1763, Pontiac, the organizer and chief of the confederacy of western tribes, invested Detroit, and, as one by one of the posts along the lakes fell into his hands, he expected, after the capture of this sole barrier to his progress eastwards, to swoop down upon the scattered colonies and drive the white man from the continent.

In 1764 a large concourse of Indians met at Niagara, and, although no general treaty of peace was entered into, treaties were signed with a number of tribes separately, one or two of which were with Canadian tribes. It was on this occasion that what is known as, the peace medal was struck. A specimen of this medal was ploughed up on a farm near Berlin, Ont., some years ago. The farmer thinking it was an old piece of tin allowed it to lie exposed on the ground a whole year before he took the trouble to pick it up. It is now in the cabinet of his son M. C. Steubing of Berlin. The farm, where it was found, was once an old Indian burying ground. The defection of so many tribes, in 1764, led Pontiac to give up the contest and enter into a treaty of peace in 1765. It was on this occasion that he and his chiefs received what is known as the lion and wolf medal. This represents a lion, in the foreground, lying watching a prowling wolf, which is seeking to destroy civilization represented by a church and school house nestling among trees. This is the most appropriate design on any Indian medal. One of these medals, found in the grave of Otussa (Pontiac's son), is now in the cabinet of the United States mint at Philadelphia (1). A considerable number of these medals must have been struck as two reverse dies were used. The two varieties were found in 1889 buried in one grave, in Michigan near St. Joes River. With them were the chief's bones and some other Indian trinkets.

(1) *American Contemporary Medals*, New York, 1894, page 238, note.

(To be continued)

- 10 *Obv.* GEORGIUS III. D. G. M. BRL. FRA. ET. HIB. REX. F. D. Half length figure of George III, laureated, to the right; across the bust is the ribbon of the garter.  
*Rev.* HAPPY WHILE UNITED A landscape with a British officer to the right and an Indian chief, to the left, holding a long pipe of peace, both seated with their backs to the ocean. To the left is a tree, and above their heads two counter-stamps, N. | YORK and DCF.; *Ex.* 1764 size: 50 m.

This is a cast medal and, as the stamp shows, made by the same silversmith as designed the Montreal medal.

- 11 *Obv.* GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA bust of the king in armour to the right.  
*Rev.* To the right, in the foreground, is a wolf snarling at a lion on the left. In the back ground is a church and house embowered among trees. There is a crack showing across the lion and the spire. There are eight trees to the right with full foliage; size 58 m.
- 12 *Obv.* Same as last.  
*Rev.* As last. The wolf is smaller and farther away from the lion, while there are only seven trees with lighter foliage; size 58 m.

THE MEDALS OF THE WAR WITH THE THIRTEEN  
COLONIES (1775-80)

were given for the purpose of winning the wavering warriors to the cause of Canada, as may be seen by the following quotations: "Upon the breaking out



of the Revolutionary war, Charles de Langlade . . . was persuaded by Captain de Pyster . . . to take an active part in the war . . . and this, as de Pyster remarks in his *Miscellanies*, was equivalent to securing all the western Indians in our interest. He was soon required to raise an Indian force, and repaired to Canada for its defence with a large body of Sioux, Saukes, Foxes, Menomonees, Winnibagos, Ottawas, Mattawattamies and Cippewas. He marched to Montreal, and upon arrival, a grand council was held . . . " (1). It was, no doubt, on this occasion that Governor Haldimand gave to each of the chiefs the great medal with a certificate, one of which reads as follows :—

*" Frederick Haldimand, Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Province of Quebec, Ec. Ec. Ec., General and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Forces in said Province and Frontier, Ec. Ec. Ec.*

*To Chawanon, Great Chief of the Folles Avoines.*

In consideration of the fidelity, zeal and attachment testified by *Chawanon, Grand Chief of the Folles Avoines* to the King's Government and by virtue of the power in me vested, I do confirm the said *Chawanon, Grand Chief of the Folles Avoines* aforesaid having bestowed upon him the great medal, willing all and singular the Indian inhabitants

(1) *Grignon's Recollections* " which appeared in the Third Annual Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison, 1857. Page 229.

thereof to obey him as *Grand* chief, and all officers and others in His Majesty's service, and to treat him accordingly. GIVEN under my hand and seal, at Montreal, this *seventeenth* day of *August*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-eight, in the *eighteenth* year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Irelan, dKing defender of the Faith, and so forth."

By His Excellency's command,

*Fred. Haldiman d.*

*E. Joy.*

This document, which is preserved in th archives of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, throws a clear light on the history of the medal (1).

There are three sizes of this medal, of the largest of which I have two varieties, but Betts claims there are four. One of these appears to be only a difference in the size of the flan, while the other is taken from a description in a British Museum catalogue, this may be only a difference in the manner of describing the medal. I have examined about fifteen of these medals, either from the specimens themselves or good rubbings, and have only been able to distinguish two varieties.

13. *Obv.* GEORGIUS III DEI GRATIA. Youthful bust

(1) A fac simile of this certificate is given in the "Fourteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology," Washington, 1896, Part I, plate 1, at page 46. Another certificate which bears the name of "Quitwolscouche-camme Grand Chief Lherbe Croche" (L'arbre croche) Indians is described in the American Journal of Numismatics, Boston, 1896, Vol. XXXI, page 8.

of George III to the right in armour. Seven rivets appear down the front of the armour.

*Rev.* The royal arms on an oval shield, surrounded by the garter inscribed HONI. SORT. QUI. MAL. Y. PENSE supporters, a lion to the left and a unicorn to the right; the paw of the lion touches the N in HONI. The quartering of the arms shows England and Scotland in the first, France in the second, Ireland in the third and Hanover in the fourth. Motto: DIEU. ET. MON. DROIT on a ribbon below; size 78 m.

- 14 *Obv.* As last, but eight rivets are shown on the front of the armour.

*Rev.* As last, but the lion's paw only reaches the I in HONI; size 77 m.

- 15 *Obv.* Similar to 13.

*Rev.* Similar to 13; size 59 m.

I have taken this description from Betts (1), as I have not had an opportunity of examining an example of this size, nor have I seen a rubbing.

- 16 *Obv.* Similar to 13.

*Rev.* Similar to 13; size 29 m.

There is a variety of the medium size medal with the arms of Hanover on an escutcheon of pretence. Now, as this form of the arms first appears on the coinage of 1801, while the older form prevails on the guineas up to the year of 1799. This medal could hardly have been struck before 1800. As I have

(1) Page 234, No. 600.

not been able to learn on what occasion it was issued, I describe it here. There appears to be no corresponding larger or smaller sizes of this design.

17 *Obv.* As No. 13, but the rivets are much larger, appearing more like buttons.

*Rev.* As 13, but the arms of England occupy the first and fourth quarters, Scotland the second and Ireland the third, while Hanover is placed on an escutcheon of pretence. The medal is in higher relief than the others; size 60 m.

#### THE HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY MEDAL

appears to have been issued about the beginning of the present century, as the dies were prepared by Kulcher, a Flemish medallist, who was employed by Boulton & Watt, of the Soho Mint, Birmingham, from 1790 to 1805. This medal was, no doubt, struck by the Company to be awarded to Indians and halfbreeds who had by faithful service earned such reward. Possibly, it was also given in connection with treaties entered into between the company and the western tribes.(1) It has on the obverse the bust and titles of George III, and on the reverse the arms of the company with the motto: "Pro pelle cutem", but, like all the Indian medals of the time, bears no other inscription or device to indicate

(1) Dr. F. Parkes Weber in "English Medals by Foreign Artists," London, 1894, page 43, claims that: It was more probably presented to members of the Hudson's Bay Company in London. But the absence of any inscription to that effect, coupled with the fact that a silver specimen has been found in the North-West, corroborates my contention.

the purpose of its issue. Varieties occur with two different busts of George III and with the reverse of another medal.

- 18 *Obv.* GEORGIUS III. D: G: BRITANNIARUM REX. FIDEI DEF. &c. Draped bust of George III to the left; under the bust G. H. K.

*Rev.* Arms of the company; argent, a cross gules, four beavers proper, to the left; crest a fox; supporters, two stags; motto, PRO PELLE CUTEM; (1) size 48 m.

- 19 *Obv.* GEORGIUS III. D. G. BRITANNIARUM REX. FID. DEF. &c. Bust of George III in armour, to the left; under the bust G. H. K. in small letters. *Rev.* Same as last; size 48 m.

- 20 *Obv.* MARI VICTRIX TERRAQUE INVICTA. *Ex.* AVITUM TRANSCENDIT | HONOREM | MDCCXCIII  
Britannia, to the right, seated in the midst of trophies, in her right hand she holds a spear, the arm leaning on a shield; and in her left she holds aloft a figure of victory; on the ground, the initials G. H. K.

*Rev.* Same as 19; size 48 m.

#### THE MEDALS OF THE WAR OF 1812

were a departure from the usual custom of cementing the friendship of the chiefs at the beginning or during the course of the hostilities. The date 1814 on the medals—the year of the close of the war—proclaims

(1) This an adaptation from Job II, and 4, "Pro cute cutem," wherein the idea is changed from "skin for skin" to "skin for pelt."

this; for, in the character of rewards for bravery, they may be classed as true war medals, all the others, except the "Conquest Medal," are simply treaty medals. The Canadian Indians had, by this time, become as truly British subjects as were the settlers from the old land. Consequently, there was no need for propitiating or rather attaching them to the crown. The three regular sizes occur, all bearing the old head of the king on the obverse, with the Royal arms and the date 1814 on the reverse. The workmanship especially that displayed on the bust of the king is finer than on any previous issue. The artist Thomas Wyon, whose signature they bear, was a member of the celebrated family of medallists, some one or other member of which has served as chief engraver to the Royal mint for over a hundred years. (1) Besides these the regular "war medal," struck in 1848, and awarded to all who participated in the Canadian engagements at Fort Detroit, Crysler's Farm and Chateauguay, were also given to the Indians who were present at these battles. (2) They

(1) In the "Gentlemen's Magazine" for February, 1818, at page 181, in a "Memoir of Thomas Wyon, Jun., Esq.," it states, after describing the medal, that: "Mr. Wyon had designed and engraved another Reverse, Britannia seated, presenting an Indian of fine athletic figure, in proper costume, with a medal. This was beautifully engraved in very bold relief, but unfortunately broke in hardening, and there was no time to re-engrave it." This incident unfortunately threw the design back into the royal arms reverse.

(2) The following document which certifies to an Indian's claim for a medal, shows how they were granted:

July 20th, 1848.

According to general order, dated Adjutant's office, 25th August, 1837, John Naudee, chief of the Chippewa tribe of Montreal Indians, one of the

bear the name of the recipient on the edge with the title "warrior." This medal has for reverse the Queen standing on a dais crowning with a wreath of laurel, the Duke of Wellington who kneels before her.

21. *Obv.* GEORGIUS III. DEI GRATIA BRITANNIARUM REX F: D: Laureated bust (old head) of the king to the right, draped in a mantle, tied with the ribbon, and the Order of the Garter. Under the bust T WYON, JUN. S.

*Rev.* The royal arms, with the arms of Hanover on an escutcheon of pretence; over the arms is a helmet and crest, and behind the helmet, on either side, a display of acanthus leaves; under the arms two roses, a thistle and shamrocks, and the date 1814. Size 75 m.

22. *Obv.* As last.

*Rev.* As last; size 60 m.

23. *Obv.* As 21.

*Rev.* As 21; size 38 m.

24. *Obv.* VICTORIA REGINA 1848. Coronated head of the Queen to the left on the truncation of the neck W. WYON, R.A.

*Rev.* TO THE BRITISH ARMY *Ex.* 1793-1814. The Queen to the right, standing on a dais crowning

Indian warriors who co-operated with the British troops at the taking of Detroit. . . .

Chief Naudee is a claimant to the medals offered by the British Government. I do hereby certify that John Naudee is the Huron who served during the last American war of 1812 and 1813.

JOHN BROWN.

Wellington, who kneels before her, with a wreath of laurels. Wellington holds in his right hand a marshal's baton; by the side of the dais is a small figure of a lion. Size 36 m.

Attached to the medal are one of the following three bars: FORT-DETROIT, CHATEAUGUAY or CRYSTLER'S-FARM.

#### THE ASHBURTON TREATY MEDAL

was given, in 1842, to several of the Micmac and other eastern Indians who assisted Lord Ashburton, as guides and otherwise, in laying out the boundary line between Canada and the United States. Only one size, somewhat smaller than the largest of the earlier issues, occurs. It bears the head of the Queen, smaller than the size of the medal would admit, leaving a wide margin on which the recipient's name and titles were engraved. (1) The reverse has arms similar to those on the medals of 1814.

25. *Obv.* Bare head of the Queen to the left, with a garland of roses around the psyche knot; under the bust, B. WYON. An inner ornamental circle, leaving a raised margin, ten millimeters wide, for inscription, between the circle and the edge.

*Rev.* VICTORIA DEI GRATIA BRITANNIARUM RE-

(1) A specimen in the collection of the Library of Parliament, Ottawa, has the following inscription engraved in the margin: above, PRESENTED TO | JOSEPH M. ITKABEITCH, | CHIEF OF THE MICMAC INDIANS AT RESTIGOUCHE, and below BY THE MINISTER OF WAR AND COLONIES | BY COMMAND OF THE QUEEN | 25 JAN. 1842.



GINA FID : DEF : Arms similar to that of No. 21, but the escutcheon of pretence is absent. Size 65 m.

#### TREATY MEDALS OF VICTORIA,

dated 1840, were struck for distribution to the Indians who participated in the treaties made during the earlier part of the reign. They were also given, no doubt, to the Indians of Lower Canada for having remained tranquil during the abortive rising of 1837. The general design and sizes are the same as those of the last issue of George III.

26. *Obv.* VICTORIA DEI GRATIA BRITANNIARUM REGINA F : D : Coronated head of the Queen to the right ; W. WYON, R. A. on the truncation of the neck.

*Rev.* Arms as on No. 25, with the date 1840 ; size 75 m.

27. *Obv.* As last.

*Rev.* As last ; size 60 m.

28. *Obv.* Victoria D : G : Brit : Regina F : D : Head as on No. 26.

*Rev.* As No. 26 ; size 38 m.

#### THE PRINCE OF WALES VISIT

was hailed by the Indians as a rare opportunity for displaying their loyalty. They were ready, when in his travels, he came near to a reservation, to turn out in their war paint, and, with presents and addresses, to do him honour and proclaim their allegi-

ance to the great Queen mother, after the manner described in the following passage:—

"Then commenced one of the most interesting proceedings which had yet taken place.

"The Indians, real red savages, majestic in mien, painted as to their faces . . . came forward, and one of them, a magnificent specimen of his tribe, . . . yelled out an Indian address . . . BROTHER GREAT BROTHER—The sky is beautiful. It was the wish of the great spirit that we should meet in this place. My heart is glad that the Queen has sent out her eldest son to see her Indian subjects . . . they have heard that at some future day you will put on the crown, and sit on the British throne. It is their earnest desire that you will always remember them.

" . . . The chief shook hands with the Prince and the Governor, the others bowed, and to each His Royal Highness gave a medal with the likeness of Her Majesty on one side, the Royal Arms on the other. The Chiefs' medals were as large as the palm of your hand; the other Indians received smaller ones, the size, perhaps, of half-crowns." (1)

The medals presented on this occasion were from the same dies as those struck in 1840; but, on the obverse, there was engraved a plume of three ostrich feathers (the crest of the Prince of Wales) to the left of the Queen's head, and the date, 1860, to the right.

#### THE "INDIAN TREATIES" MEDALS

were practically the only ones issued under the au-

(1) Visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to the British North American Provinces," Robert Cellem, Toronto, 1861, page 298.

thority of the Canadian Government, which government having, in 1870, acquired all the titles to the North-West Territories, held by the Hudson's Bay Company, proceeded to extinguish the Indian titles. Therefore, in 1871, a Commission was appointed by which during the seven years that followed seven treaties, numbered from one to seven, were drawn up, by means of which the larger part of the great Canadian wheat belt was thrown open to settlers. In a report of the proceedings of "Treaty Number One," W. M. Simpson, one of the commissioners, states that: "In addition to this, each chief was to receive a dress, a flag and a medal, as marks of distinction. (1) No special medal was struck for the first of these treaties, but a stock medal of the medium size, procured from the Messrs. Wyon, of London, was given to the signing Chiefs. This medal, of a kind usually awarded as school or agricultural prizes, has for obverse the Queen's head, and, for reverse, a wreath of oak leaves. It was awarded for treaties number one and two. But these were not deemed sufficiently large for the chiefs, so, in 1872, an order was given to Mr. R. Hendry, a silversmith of Montreal, to make twenty-five medals, according to a design furnished him by the department at Ottawa. This design consisted of the medal, struck in 1867, to commemorate the confederation of the provinces, with a margin added bearing, on the obverse, the inscription "Dominion of Canada Chiefs Medal," and

(1) "The Treaties of Canada with the Indians of the North-West." Morris, Toronto, 1880, page 39.

on the reverse "Indians of the North-West Territories." Mr. Hendry having no means for preparing the dies for or striking such a large medal, took an original Confederation medal, to which he fixed a ring eleven millimetres wide around the outside margin. On this ring, the letters of the inscription, which had been separately cut out, were soldered. From the medal so built up twenty-five electrotypes were made, and, after having been plated, handed over to the Government, as medals to be presented to the chiefs. This most ponderous medal, ninety-four millimetres in diameter and ten in thickness, no doubt at first received with great pleasure by the chiefs, was soon looked upon with disgust; for, notwithstanding its great size and its silver-like appearance, its purchasing power, especially of "fire water," was soon found to be very small. But by the time treaty number three was ready for signature, the Government had redeemed itself. A new medal had been ordered from the Messrs. Wyon, more appropriate and more beautiful in design than any that had heretofore been presented to the Indians. On the obverse is the veiled and crown head of the Queen, with the simple inscription, "Victoria Regina," while the reverse represents an Indian encampment, at sunset, on the prairie, with an Indian chief in war costume and a British general officer clasping hands. A tomahawk is "buried" or struck into the earth at their feet. The inscription reads: "Indian treaty No.—" and the date "187—", incused; so that the number of the treaty and

the last figure of the date should be stamped on at the time of presentation. Although I have not been able to verify the fact, I have no doubt that this medal was substituted for the twenty-five electrotype medals issued for treaties numbers one and two.

29. *Obv.* VICTORIA REGINA. Crowned head of the Queen to the right; under the head, in small letters, J. S. & A. B. WYON, SC.

*Rev.* A wreath of oak leaves; size 51 m.

30. *Obv.* DOMINION OF CANADA CHIEFS 1872 MEDAL on an outside circle; within the circle VICTORIA D: G: BRITT: REG: F: D: Veiled and crowned bust of the Queen to the left; under the bust J. S. WYON, SC.

*Rev.* INDIANS OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORIES on an outer circle; within the circle JUVENTAS ET PATRIUS VIGOR CANADA INSTAURAT, 1867. Britannia, to the right, seated with a trident in her right hand, while with her left she presents a scroll inscribed CONFEDERATION to four females with emblems representing the industries of the four confederating provinces. By her left knee is a large lion; size 94 m.

31. *Obv.* VICTORIA REGINA. Bust of the Queen, as on the last; under the bust J. S. & A. B. WYON.

*Rev.* INDIAN TREATY NO—, below 187—. A prairie scene, with the setting sun to the left and an Indian encampment to the right; in the foreground is an Indian in war feathers clasping hands with a British general officer. At their

feet is a tomahawk struck into the ground, below it J. S. & A. B. WYON. Size 76 m.

From these facts, gleaned from a study of the Indian medals, we may learn that, while little has been mentioned in history in connection with this subject, the giving and receiving of medals has played an important part in the settlement of North America, and that in the main this practice has contributed towards the advance of peace and civilization. Reservations of these children of the forest are still to be found here and there in the land, but those of them which remain are fast disappearing—loosing their national characteristic—and growing into the manhood of full citizenship. Occasionnally we meet in the avocations of peace descendents of those who were the makers of our early history—the chief actors in those stirring times—the desolators of the frontier settlements. Courted alike by Saxon and Gaul, they, for a time, held the balance of power; being ever ready to help in that never-ending warfare, and now, that the war fire has ceased to burn in their bosoms and the fierce war whoop to ring from their lips, shall we not treasure, with the deepest veneration for the ever receding past, these mementoes of those who actively participated in that century and a half of conflict during which two races struggled for supremacy in the New Continent.



*Since this paper was set up, an additional item, regarding the "Honos et Virtus" medal, has come to my knowledge which I have considered worth while adding.*

In rearranging my Roman Consular Coins, not long ago, my attention was arrested by the denarius of the Fufia gens. Its conception, I can hardly say its design, seemed akin to that of the "Honos et Virtus" medal, struck by Louis XIV for the Canadian Indians. A closer study soon convinced me that the designer of the medal had been inspired by this coin. It is thus described :

*Obv.* KALENI. The laureated head of Honour and the helmeted head of Valour, accolated, to the right ; in the field to the left HO (*nos*) and to the right VIR (*tus*).

*Rev.* CORDI. Italy, draped in tunic and stolla, standing on the left holding a cornucopia in her left hand, while with her right she clasps the hand of Rome, who is standing on the right, draped in tunic only ; in her left hand is a sceptre and her right foot rests on a globe. In the field, on the left, is a caducius and ITAL (*ia*) in monogram, and on the right RO (*ma*) ; size 19 m.

It is believed that this coin was struck to commemorate the ratification of the peace that brought an end to the "social war" which had so long desolated

the country; a peace through which all the people of Italy secured the full rights of Roman citizenship.

Although I have already described the medal, (1) I will repeat here a more detailed description of it for more convenient reference.

*Rev.* HONOS ET VIRTUS. Honor, laureated, standing on the left, draped in a toga, with a spear in his left hand and with his right clasping the right hand of Valour, who is standing on the right holding a spear in her left hand. She is in the costume of a Roman soldier, with helmet, broad sword and short tunic. At their feet is a cornucopia. The letter "W" which appears below is the initial of the engraver, Winslow.

The personages represented on the coin and on the medal are essentially the same, and are intended to convey similar thoughts. The difference in detail and treatment are only such as would be produced by two designers living seventeen centuries apart.

As the coin depicts Rome and Italy as Honor and Valour, two deities long associated together in worship, clasping their hands in close friendship, so, we may naturally conclude, the medal represents France and the Indian tribes who have been engaged in a destructive war, clasping hands in a treaty of peace that is to bring plenty and contentment. The medal then was undoubtedly struck to commemorate the close of a "social war" in Canada. When, during

(1) See page 10 of this volume of the *Antiquarian*.



the reign of Louis XIV, was such a treaty of peace signed? An answer to this question will enable us to fix the exact date of the medal.

Ever since the commencement of the European settlements there had existed a social warfare in Canada, in which the different Indian nations were arrayed against each other and against the intruding settlers. It was one constant succession of raids on peaceful villages, isolated farm houses and Indian encampments, so that the whole country seemed likely to be denuded not only of its European, but of its Indian inhabitants.

Upon the death of Frontenac, in 1699, de Callières was appointed Governor of Canada, and, from having been so long in command at Montreal, the frontier town, his intercourse with the Indians had been more intimate and therefore his influence much greater. Learning of the general peace, concluded in Europe, the Iroquois approached the new Governor asking that representatives be sent to treat with them. But this proposition he declined, with the intimation that he could only treat with representatives of the tribes at Montreal. Acting on this proposition, a general council of delegates from the different Indian nations assembled in Montreal on the 18th of September, 1700, and concluded a treaty of peace which was to be ratified by a grand council of all the tribes, to be summoned the following year.

In August, 1701, this great council met, and the occasion was the most impressive event that had

taken place since the founding of the city. Just outside the city walls, a spacious enclosure was formed with young saplings and seated with benches for the Indian deputies—over thirteen hundred in number. There were representatives from the Abenakis, Algonquins, Hurons, Illinois, Iroquois, Miamis, Outaouais, Ponteuamis, Sauteux, and, in fact, every tribe from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the lower stretches of the Mississippi. The whole town, male and female, turned out to witness the spectacle, for the Indians were costumed with all the peculiar finery and attributes of their different clans, as well as tribes. At one end of the enclosure was a pavillion occupied by de Callières, the Governor, Vaudreuil, Governor of Montreal, de Ramezay, the Commandant of the forces, de Champigny, the Intendant, and all the notables of the town, while surrounding the whole was a guard of soldiers. After de Callières had addressed the assembled delegates and the address had been translated into the different Indian languages, wampum belts were exchanged and, no doubt, as was usual on such occasions, treaty medals distributed.

From these facts we may safely conclude that when de Callières had concluded the preliminary treaty of 1700 with the Indians, and had arranged for the assembly of a grand council in August, 1701, for its ratification, he asked the Minister of Marine, in Paris, to have a special medal prepared for presentation, on the occasion, to the Indian chiefs, on which the idea of peace and concord should be depicted. The

Minister having accorded the medal, entrusted its execution to the engraver Winslow who, no doubt, as a numismatist as many of the medalists of those days were, sought his inspiration from among his Roman coins, and chose the design displayed on that of the Fufia gens as the most appropriate.

And, thus, in a later study of this coin, we have been able to trace the source of the inspiration, and to fix definitely the date of and the occasion for which one of our well known Canadian medals was struck.



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